

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends each of the pending claims to include the feature that the vertical particle motion data is measured using one or more multi-component streamers or vertical cables having receivers located substantially above the sea floor.

This amendment does not introduce new matter as a streamer is known in the art as a receiver carrier or cable that is towed by a vessel through the body of water. Likewise, a vertical cable is known in the art as receiver carrier that is vertically suspended in a body of fluid. In each of these situations, the receivers are located substantially above the sea floor.

In contrast, the ocean bottom cable described in Ikelle et al. (US 6,101,448) is known in the art as a receiver carrier that is used to acquire data when the receivers are located on the bottom of a body of water, touching or in contact with the sea floor. An ocean bottom cable does not acquire data using receivers located substantially above the sea floor. Ikelle does not teach a deghosting filter for use with receiver carriers other than ocean bottom cables.

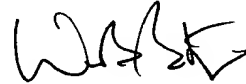
Note: Ikelle is not available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner is respectfully reminded that the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,101,448 (Ikelle), were, at the time that the invention of the present application was made, subject to an obligation of assignment (with respect to the United States) to the same person (Schlumberger Technology Corporation). Therefore, while Ikelle is available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), it is not available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

If the Examiner is contemplating any action other than allowance of claims 1-29, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' representative at 203-431-5506 or by email at wbatzer@ridgefield.oilfield.slb.com to discuss this case further.

In the event that a fee or refund is due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0615.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Batzer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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December 9, 2003